AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND

1.   Technical Field

Please add the following at page 1, line 5:

2.   Related Art

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, beginning at line 12:

One method of composing a media article involves the putting together of a plurality of components. For example, a film is made up of a plurality of scenes as set out in a screenplay. There have been some attempts to create a media article automatically in this way. For example, the production of a Waltz in accordance with a musical dice game has been provided. is found at http://sunsite.univie.ac.at/Mozart/dice/. Similarly, an automatic story generation program, the Romance Writer is available. from at http://familygames.com/features/humor/romance.html.

Please add the following at page 2, line 19:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, beginning at line 31:

This allows an approach to the composition of a media article which broadly follows an established pattern, but which allows a degree of flexibility within that pattern not seen in conventional systems. Thus the type of broad pattern known for narratives and films - for

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example, the StoryCraft® program from StoryCraft Corporation, 560 Roland Drive, Norfolk,

VA 23509, USA helps an author write a story by asking the writer to introduce the hero and an

antagonist, prior to some conflict between them, which is then followed by the hero's triumphal

return home - can still be used, but variations within that pattern can easily be introduced by

changing the nature of the selection.

Please add the following at page 4, line 27:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following at page 6, line 29:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 4:

Figure 2 shows the software and data components of a system according to a first embodiment of

the present invention. The software includes three input program modules, namely a media

mark-up tool program 40, a template creation tool program 42, a user profile creation tool

program 44, object-oriented database management software 45 54, and two output program

modules, namely a template populator program module 46 and a content synthesis program

module 48.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, beginning at line 25:

Once the editor has entered this data, the picture is replaced with the description of the

media element given as the value of the 'description' property above. The form is then removed

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from the display to return to the display of a plurality of pictures representing the media elements

selected by the editor from the original rush (<u>e.g., see the kickoff media element 0.2 in </u>Figure

4A).

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, beginning at line 5:

A second type of relationship that the editor may indicate is that of sequence. To indicate such a

relationship, the editor arranges the media elements he wishes to group into the same rectangular

area of the screen, ordering them from left-to-right in accordance with the sequence they should

follow, clicks on a further button (not shown), which causes the cursor to change form and

moves the cursor to a position to one corner of that rectangular area. Thereafter, the editor clicks

the button on the mouse 22, and holds that button down whilst moving to an opposite corner of

that rectangular area whereupon he releases the button. This results in a thick, solid rectangular

line being drawn around the media elements contained within the rectangular area with a thick,

short arrow being drawn in the top left-hand corner of the area defined by the rectangular line.

In the example in Figure 4C, the editor has indicated that the media element <u>0.11 </u>representing

Team B's fifteenth pass is followed by the media element representing Team B's sixteenth pass

which is in turn followed by the media element representing Team B's first goal.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, beginning at line 1:

Figure 5 shows the relationships entered by the editor in hierarchical form <u>(starting with a Match</u>

<u>media element 4.1) </u>and therefore reflects the object hierarchy which the editor has built up

within the object-oriented database 54 on the hard disk 16.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 15, beginning at line 11:

Like a media object, a template object for use in the present embodiment conforms to a comprehensive predefined data model. As can be seen from Figure 6, this predefined data model includes a title field, and a plurality of sections. Each section is a set comprising a name field, a query field, and, optionally, a constraint field. The template populator tool prompts the user to enter a name for the template and to indicate the section structure (top-level sections may themselves contain sections). The editor indicates the section structure using a graphical user interface component similar to the Folder List provided in Microsoft Windows Explorer® for example. In the example given in Figure 6, the template has a flat structure of three sections.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, beginning at line 9:

The first stage of sorting (step 68) takes account of the sequence information entered by the user. The is done by using the known 'Quicksort'® algorithm to place the nodes of the tree in the correct order as identified by the sequence position metadata associated with the object. This is done starting at the top of the tree and then moving towards the leaves (i.e. the media objects) of the tree.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, beginning at line 28:

The known Quicksort® algorithm is then used to ensure that causes are shown before effects. As those skilled in the art will know, implementations of Quicksort® allow the user to define a function which gives the order of two objects passed to it. In the present case, a function is provided which indicates that a goes before b is a causes b and that d comes after c, if d is caused by c.

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Please amend the paragraph at page 27, beginning at line 34:

iii) one constraint which might be added to each selection or combination of selections could be a constraint on the number of times a given media element appears in the finished media article. It might, for example, be dictated that any media element should only appear once in a given media article;.

Please amend the title at page 29, before claim 1:

~~CLAIMS~~ **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

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